

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 5, 14-23 and 29-50 are cancelled.

Claims 1, 4, 7 and 24 are amended.

Claims 1-4, 6-13 and 24-28 are pending.

Claim 51 is new.

Claims 1, 4 and 24 have been amended to conform to the restriction requirement. Claim scope has not been altered otherwise.

Claim 7 has been amended to read “duration of flowering” in lieu of “duration to flowering”. Support for such an amendment is on page 5, line 12 of the specification as originally filed.

New claim 51 has been added. Support for claim 51 is found on page 38, line 15 of the specification as originally filed.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required a 7-way restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Applicants elect to pursue Group I: claims 1-13 and 24-28 drawn to a method for altering a plant agronomic trait comprising introducing into a plant cell an expression cassette comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of a nucleotide sequence antisense to AGB1, a nucleotide sequence comprising an inverted repeat of AGB1, and a nucleotide sequence encoding a dsRNA of AGB1; said sequence operably linked to a promoter or said AGB1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or transgenic plant comprising said nucleotide sequence.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter of Groups II-VII.

A request for a four-month extension of time and the authorization for the associated fee are filed concurrently with this paper. No other fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. However, should any other fees be required for any reason relating to these materials, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No. 01-2508/11899.0251.NPUS00.

Respectfully submitted,



Customer No. 45607
HOWREY LLP
1111 Louisiana, 25th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002-5242
(713) 787-1400
(713) 787-1440 (fax)
Date: November 28, 2005

Rudeina A. Baasiri, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 47,398
Agent for Assignee
MONSANTO COMPANY